

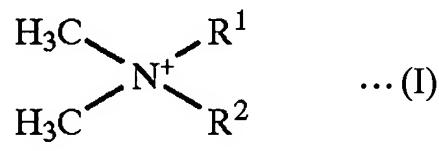
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

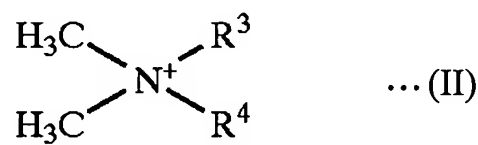
Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The gel composition according to claim 1~~ A gel composition comprising a cation-modified clay mineral, wherein cations of said cation-modified clay mineral comprise quaternary ammonium cations represented by Formula (I):



wherein R¹ is a C₁₋₉ alkyl group, a phenyl group, or a C₇₋₉ aralkyl group that is an aryl ring with a 1 to 3 carbon substituent, and R² is a C₁₀₋₃₆ alkyl group;

and Formula (II):



wherein R₃ and R₄ are independent from each other and each represents a C₁₀₋₃₆ alkyl group; and

wherein said cation-modified clay mineral comprises a the cation-modified clay mineral A whose cation is the quaternary ammonium cation represented by the Formula (I) and a the cation-modified clay mineral B whose cation is the quaternary ammonium cation represented by the Formula (II) in a weight ratio of A:B from 55:45 to 99.9:0.1.

Claim 3 (original): The gel composition according to claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of A : B is from 60:40 to 80:20.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The gel composition according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein R¹ is benzyl group.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The gel composition according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein R¹ is methyl group.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The gel composition according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein R² is a C₁₆₋₁₈ alkyl group.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The gel composition according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein each of R³ and R⁴ is a C₁₆₋₁₈ alkyl group.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The gel composition according to claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein a host clay mineral of said cation-modified clay mineral is montmorillonite or hectorite.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The gel composition according to claim 8 ~~1~~, wherein the host clay mineral of said cation-modified clay mineral is montmorillonite.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A nail enamel comprising the gel composition according to claim 2 ~~1~~.